

INELIGIBLE FOODS

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) makes individual product specific determinations as necessary and upon request. In light of recent concerns regarding product decisions, all product designations have recently been reviewed and redeterminations have been made.

In general, food products that contain alcohol or tobacco, items that are not intended for human consumption (e.g. paper products, pet foods, etc.), vitamins and supplements, and foods sold hot at the point-of-sale, are not eligible for purchase with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamp Program) benefits.

With regard to vitamins and supplements, FNS policy is to make determinations based on how products are marketed. One of the primary factors used in making redeterminations is the type of product label chosen by the manufacturer. Items that carry a Supplement Facts label are classified by the Food and Drug Administration as supplements, and are therefore not eligible.

Many of the items for which product determinations have been requested are power bars and energy drinks currently on the market. A relatively small number of power bars and energy drinks are categorized as supplements and are therefore ineligible.

The list of up-to-date determinations is now posted. Please note that the posted list does not cover all products currently on the market. As new designations are requested and made, we will update the posted list. Questions about the listed designations should be directed to the contact below.

In order to expedite future requests for determination, please submit by mail or email a **complete** and legible product label or a sample of the item(s) to:

Chief
Retailer Management and Issuance Branch
Benefit Redemption Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 404
Alexandria, VA 22302

OR EMAIL TO:

BRDHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov

All requests for determinations submitted with a complete product label will be completed within 10 business days.